

Remarks:

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of Applicant's claim for priority and certified priority document under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

Reconsideration of the application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

Claims 12 - 23 are presently pending in the application. Claim 19 has been amended. Claim 22 has been canceled herein, and Claims 1 - 11 were previously canceled.

In item 3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 12, 15 - 17, 19 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 4,486,633 to Calvino ("**CALVINO**").

In item 5 of the Office Action, claims 13, 14, 18 and 20 - 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over **CALVINO** in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,538,224 to Futura et al ("**FURUTA**").

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections.

First, Applicant's claim 12 claims a particularly configured compressed-gas-insulated switch-disconnecter module. It is

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important to not that the **CALVINO** reference does not teach or suggest, among other limitations of Applicants' claims, a disconnecter module. Rather, **CALVINO** discloses an interrupter. See, for example, the Title of **CALVINO**. However, a disconnecter and an interrupter are different devices. An interrupter is a switching device for switching and interrupting currents. A disconnecter is a switching device for generating a visible isolation point. In a disconnecter, in contrast to an interrupter, the switching only occurs when current is not present. Thus, the interrupter of **CALVINO** cannot be said to anticipate disconnecter of Applicant's claim 12.

Additionally, even if, arguendo, the device of **CALVINO** were somehow considered to be a "disconnecter", the **CALVINO** reference still fails to teach or suggest all limitations of Applicant's claim 12.

More particularly, Applicant's claim 12 recites, among other limitations:

an electrically conductive housing having first and second flanges; [emphasis added by Applicants]

As such, the **compressed-gas-insulated switch-disconnector module of claim 12 has an electrically conductive housing having first and second flanges. Thus, the first and second**

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flanges are components of the electrically conductive housing,
as is made clear by the language of claim 12. A flange
connection requires two corresponding flanges that are
connected with each other to produce a connection having solid
angles. Connected to the flanges are bodies that are to be
connected to each other and, using the flange connection, are
consequently connected to each other at solid angles.

In rejecting Applicant's claim 12, page 2 of the Office Action
pointed to the Y-shaped tank 12 of **CALVINO** as allegedly
corresponding to Applicant's claimed electrically conductive
housing. Additionally, page 2 of the Office Action pointed to
bushing end 44 of **CALIVNO** and end 72 of a contact support leg
64 of **CALVINO** as allegedly corresponding to Applicant's
particularly claims first and second flanges, respectively,
which Applicant's claims require to be components of the
electrically conductive housing. Applicant respectfully
disagrees. Neither element 44 of **CALVINO**, nor element 72 of
CALVINO can be considered a first or second flange of the
electrically conductive housing.

First, Applicant cannot see how the end 72 of the contact
support leg 64 of **CALVINO** can be alleged to be a flange of the
tube 12 of **CALVINO** (i.e., of analogized in the Office Action
to Applicant's claimed electrically conductive housing).

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Rather, reference numeral 72 of **CALVINO** has no operational connection with the electrically conductive housing 12 of **CALVINO**. As such, reference numeral 72 of **CALVINO** cannot represent a second flange of an electrically conductive housing 12 of **CALVINO**, as would be required by the terms of Applicant's claim 12.

Further, although the bushing 20 of **CALVINO** contains a flange 44 at one end, the flange 44 is a component of the bushing 20 of **CALVINO**, and not a component of the Y-shaped tank 12 of **CALVINO** (alleged in the Office Action to correspond to Applicant's "electrically conductive housing"). As such, instead of being a component of the tank 12, the bushing 20 is connected to the tank 12 via the flange 44 of the bushing 20. This can be seen for example, in col. 3 of **CALVINO**, lines 31 - 37, which state:

Disposed within the bushing 20 (see FIG. 3) is the bushing shield 42 which functions to control the electric field gradients at the end 44 of the bushing 20 where it is connected to the leg 16. Also to be noted is that the leg 16 has an outside diameter 46 which is the same as the bushing outside diameter 48 at the location where the bushing 20 is secured to the leg 16. [emphasis added by Applicant]

As can be seen, **CALVINO** discloses that the tank 12 of **CALVINO** includes a leg 16 that has an outside diameter 46 which is the same as the bushing outside diameter 48 at the location where the bushing is secured to the tank leg, so that the flange 44

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of the bushing 20 of **CALVINO** abuts, and is presumably affixed to, an end of the leg 16 facing the bushing 20. As such, contrary to the allegation made on page to of the Office Action, the bushing end 44 of **CALVINO** is not a component of an electrically conductive housing, as required by Applicant's claims.

Thus, tube 12 of **CALVINO** does not have first and second flanges, as required by Applicant's claim 12.

However, in order to further discussion only, Applicant will assume, arguendo, that the module illustrated in the area of the opening 107 of Fig. 3 of **CALVINO** (which area presumably mates with the bushing end 44) includes a first flange (not disclosed in **CALVINO**) on the tube 12. Similarly, arguendo, Applicant will assume a second flange (not disclosed in **CALVINO**) to be in the area of the opening 103 of Fig. 3 of **CALVINO**. Applicant notes that a flange in the area of the opening 117 of leg 14 of Fig. 3 of **CALVINO** would not meet the further requirements of claim 12 reciting, among other limitations, of "phase conductors extended along said main axis".

However, even if, arguendo, the ends near openings 103 and 107 of the tube 12 were argued, somehow, to include "flanges", the

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CALVINO reference still does not teach or suggest the remaining limitations of Applicant's claim 12.

More particularly, Applicant's claim 12 further requires, among other limitations:

a tubular electrode connected to said housing, concentrically surrounding said first phase conductor, disposed radially inside said first flange, and projecting beyond said first flange. [emphasis added by Applicant]

Page 3 of the Office Action analogized the **bushing shield 42** of **CALVINO** to Applicant's particularly claimed **tubular electrode**. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Col. 3 of **CALVINO**, lines 31 - 34, state:

Disposed within the bushing 20 (see FIG. 3) is the bushing shield 42 which functions to control the electric field gradients at the end 44 of the bushing 20 where it is connected to the leg 16. [emphasis added by Applicant]

However, since the bushing shield 42 of **CALVINO** extends entirely above the flange connection in the left Y-branch of tube 12 of **CALVINO**, it cannot be "disposed radially inside said first flange, and projecting beyond said first flange", as required by Applicant's claim 12. Rather, in order to extend radially at the inside through the first flange and to project beyond the latter, the bushing shield 42 of **CALVINO** would have to have its base and its attachment somewhere

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inside the tube 12 of **CALVINO**. However, Fig 3 of **CALVINO** particularly shows that this is not the case in **CALVINO**.

Rather, as can be seen particularly from Fig. 3 of **CALVINO**, the sheath 42 is attached inside the bushing 20 of **CALVINO** and the sheath 42 of **CALVINO** does not extend outside of the bushing 20 of **CALVINO**. Consequently, the sheath 42 of **CALVINO** cannot shield the flange region. In contrast to the configuration disclosed in **CALVINO**, in Applicant's invention of claim 12, the tubular electrode extending beyond the edge of a first flange ensures that the shielding effect extends into the area of the connection point of the first and second flanges of the electrically conductive housing.

Among other limitations of Applicant's claim 12, it can be seen from the foregoing that the **CALVINO** reference fails to disclose: 1) a disconnecter; 2) an electrically conductive housing having first and second flanges; and 3) a tubular electrode disposed radially inside said first flange, and projecting beyond said first flange.

For the foregoing reasons, among others, Applicant's claim 12 is believed to be patentable over the **CALVINO** reference. The **FURUTA** reference, cited in the Office Action in combination with **CALVINO** against certain of Applicant's dependent claims,

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does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of the **CALVINO** reference.

Additionally, Applicant's independent claim 19 has been amended to recite, among other limitations:

an electrically conductive housing including a tubular connecting stub;

a toroidal transformer disposed around said tubular connecting stub;

a switch disconnecter having an isolating gap insulated by compressed gas within said housing, said isolating gap having a switching contact;

an electrically insulating casing flange-connected to said housing as an outdoor bushing;

said housing and said casing surrounding a common gas area, said common gas area extending into said tubular connecting stub. [emphasis added by Applicant]

The amendments to Applicant's claim 19 are supported by the specification of the instant application, for example, by originally filed claim 22, now canceled. As such, Applicant's claim 19 requires, among other limitations, an electrically conductive housing including a tubular connecting stub around which a toroidal transformer is disposed and into which a common gas area extends. Additionally, Applicant's claim 19 requires, among other limitations, a switch point located in the common gas area defined by the housing and casing, and extending into the tubular connecting stub surrounded by the

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toroidal transformer. The **CALVINO** and **FURUTA** references, cited in the Office Action against Applicant's former claim 22, do not teach or suggest, among other limitations of Applicants' claims, limitations of Applicant's claims, Applicant's particularly claimed a **switch point located in a common gas area that is defined by the housing and casing, and which extends into the tubular connecting stub surrounded by the toroidal transformer.**

More particularly, as acknowledged on page 4 of the Office Action, the **CALVINO** reference fails to teach or suggest "a toroidal transformer at the second flange". In fact, **CALVINO** fails to teach or suggest, among other limitations of Applicants' claims, **a toroidal transformer disposed around a tubular connecting stub**, as required by Applicant's current claim 19 (i.e., including limitations of the former claim 22). Rather, page 4 of the Office Action alleges, in part, that both the tubular connecting stub of Applicant's claim 19 and the toroidal transformer disposed around it, are allegedly disclosed in **FURUTA**, stating, in part:

Regarding Claim 14, Futura [sic] discloses a frame for the transformer, which is taken as a stub. Regarding Claim 22, Calvino discloses gas area extends into the stub.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. As stated above, Applicant's claim 19 requires, among other limitations, a

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switch disconnecter having an isolating gap insulated by compressed gas within the housing, the isolating gap having a switching contact. From this, it follows that, among other things, Applicant's claim 19 requires the switching contact (i.e., part of an "isolating gap insulated by compressed gas within the housing") to be within the common gas area.

However, contrary to Applicant's invention of claim 19, the transformers disclosed in FURUTA are each arranged around gas areas that are free from any switching point. For example, in FURUTA, any electrical switching points present in FURUTA are isolated from the common gas areas adjacent the transformers 70 of FURUTA and in an electrically conductive housing, by the insulating spacers 80, 82 of FURUTA. Conversely, in FURUTA, any common gas areas of FURUTA that are located between the electrically conductive housing on which the transformer is located and have a bushing arranged thereto (i.e., "said housing and said casing surrounding a common gas area") do not include a switching point in the housing, as would be required by Applicant's claim 19.

As such, among other limitations of Applicant's claim 19, a switch point located in a common gas area defined by the housing and casing, and extending into the tubular connecting stub surrounded by the toroidal transformer. Thus,

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Applicant's claim 19 is believed to be patentable over the
CALVINO and **FURUTA** references.

For the foregoing reasons, among others, Applicant's claims are believed to be patentable over the **CALVINO** and **FURUTA** references. It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 12 and 19. Claims 12 and 19 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 12 and 19.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 12 - 23 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
Greenberg Sterner LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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